

ABSTRACT

A hybrid gear/sprocket-based transmission is provided for driving a pair of coaxial, counter-rotating propellers in vessels. A drive shaft couplable to an engine crank shaft extends rearward into the transmission case, and a pair of coaxial driven shafts extend rearward out of the transmission case, to which are attachable a pair of propellers. A gear train, containing an even number of gears, reverses the rotational direction of the engine; a flexible member retains the rotational direction of the engine. Improved stability characteristics are imparted by supporting the drive shaft at two points and also by positioning the drive and the driven shafts in vertical alignment.